

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows.

1. (currently amended) A liquid dispensing apparatus,
comprising: including
~~a container for containing a liquid;~~
a container setting part for setting a container for
containing a liquid, the container having a lid coupled to the
container and adapted to open and close about an opening/closing
pivot part, and a hook part that projects upward from the lid when
the lid is closed; and
a dispensing mechanism part having a pipette for drawing and
dispensing the liquid, a raising/lowering part for raising and
lowering the pipette, a base for holding the raising/lowering part
and provided with a projection part adapted to engage with the hook
part, and a base driving part for moving the base, thereby enabling
to act the pipette and the projection part at a suitable position,
wherein the base moves horizontally thereby the projection
~~part a lid being capable of being opened/closed with an~~
~~opening/closing pivot part is coupled to the container, and the lid~~
~~is provided with a hook part projecting upward for engaging, and~~
~~the base is provided with a projection part for engaging, which~~
~~opens the lid by abutting against the hook part and moving the hook~~

part toward the pivot part side of the container ~~as the base moves relatively to the container and retains the state of the lid~~ opened.

2. (original) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pipette has a pipette body and a liquid metering means provided to the pipette body for metering liquid.

3. (currently amended) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the raising/lowering part includes a pair of pulleys provided in vertically-spaced relationship at the base, a motor rotating/driving one of these pulleys, and a belt looped over these pulleys ~~between them~~.

4. (currently amended) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the container for containing the liquid is at least one of a specimen container and/or a reagent container, and the container setting part is any one among a portion at which a rack for holding a plurality of ~~the specimen containers~~ ~~container~~ is placed, a portion to which the specimen container is ~~are~~ transferred by a transfer apparatus, and a portion at which a plurality of ~~the reagent containers~~ ~~container~~ are placed.

5. (currently amended) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hook part projects upward from near the center of the lid and has an engaging portion approximately parallel to the pivot part ~~for being engaged with the projection part.~~

6. (currently amended) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the projection part adapted to extend such that ~~is capable of extending and retracting, having a state of projection in which the projection part engages projects to engage~~ with the hook part, and retract such that a state of retraction in which the projection part disengages from ~~retracts to disengage with the hook part.~~

7. (original) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein the projection part is a piston of an air cylinder attached to the base and actuated with working air supplied externally.

8. (original) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the projection part is a protrusion attached to the base.

9. (original) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the container is configured in such a way

that the direction of the opening/closing of the lid is consistent with a specified direction when the container is set at the container setting part.

10. (currently amended) An automatic analyzing apparatus, comprising:

_____a liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 9; and

_____a measuring part that analyzes the liquid.

11. (new) The liquid dispensing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the projection part retains the state of the lid opened.